

International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby



JULY 2007

International Teaching Ministry Update

DEBATE READY TO ORDER, THIRD WORLD TEACHING MATERIALS

*Past updates are available at the website, where you will also find 15-20 pages of new material weekly. Enjoying the updates and website? Please spread the word. (If not, just click on **REMOVE**.) If your email address has changed, please send the new and the old address (for deletion). If you didn't sign up, a friend gave us your address. Hope you enjoy them.*

Greetings from Georgia! After many months of drought, this state is finally receiving its share of much-needed rain. Without water, there is no life. And without spiritual water, we can expect at best slow (or no) growth. As Amos 8:11-12 says, "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord God, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD. And people will stagger from sea to sea, And from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find it." Similarly, in the scriptures we see many people thirsty for God, like the Samaritan woman of John 4 and David in Psalm 42. The purpose of the international teaching ministry is to help all of us to flourish -- not only to plant seeds, but also to water them. As the apostle Paul comments in 1 Corinthians 3, some plant seeds, others water, but it is only God who makes things grow. In the drama of salvation, everyone plays a part; no one is insignificant; all use their gifts.

Since the last update, I've been able to make trips to Los Angeles (staff training, regional teaching), San Juan (archaeology, the book of Revelation), Santo Domingo (the book of Acts), and Boston (using apologetics, academic discipline). In San Juan, every member of our family got to address the congregation, with extra classes being presented by my wife, Vicki, and son, James. Next week I travel with our younger daughter, Lily (13), to Orlando for the [Florida Discipleship Conference](#). There I will speak on *The Muslim Challenge* and *Who Is My Brother?*, as well as leading an all-day tour of Orlando's *Holyland Experience* for teens and college students. August visits include San Diego, London, and also Edinburgh, Scotland.

For sure, many exciting things have happened of late, and yet this month's newsletter is destined to be a short one. First off, the debate with Michael Shermer (of the Skeptic Society and Scientific American) took place on June 23rd. Thousands of you prayed for the outcome (thanks so much!) and hundreds have asked when the DVD would be ready. I prepared hard for this (my first) debate, listening to recordings of others' debates and taking every suggestion I could from philosopher William Lane Craig, whom I met the month before the event itself.

DEBATE REPORT

The following has been excerpted from the IPI website. For a full

Debate topic: **DOES GOD EXIST?** The format: affirmation, cross-examination, rebuttal, audience Q&A, final rebuttal and summary statement.

report, written by John Oakes of the Apologetics Research Society (ARS), click [here](#).

The debate between international teacher Douglas Jacoby and agnostic-skeptic Michael Shermer on June 23 was the highlight of the 2007 International Apologetics Conference, which was sponsored by the ARS.



To order, just click on the image.

Dr. Shermer is one of the three or four most famous atheist / agnostic scholars in the world, author of 12 books, President of the Skeptic Society. He has held dozens of debates, appeared on *Oprah*, *20/20*, *Dateline*, *Tom Snyder*, and *The History Channel*. Dr. Jacoby is director of the Athens Institute of Ministry, and has spoken in hundreds of cities in over 70 nations.

This exciting event was held before a packed house, with an overflow crowd watching closed circuit monitors outside the venue. Kedron Jones served as moderator and affable host.

Shermer and Jacoby both bring their best analytical skills to this debate. The interchange is lively, with both speakers willing to concede points made by their opponent.

You will benefit greatly from weighing the arguments put forth. Douglas' clear and incisive arguments for the existence of God are persuasive. He argues from cosmology (both its creation and its complexity). and the unmistakable fact that moral absolutes are part of reality. Shermer's arguments are nuanced and based on the precept that God's existence is unknowable. This two-hour debate is lively, engaging and instructional.

-- Toney Mulhollan, *Illumination Publishers International*

TEACHING MATERIALS: DONATIONS SOUGHT

At the July 2007 International Campus Ministry Conference (in Boston), we gave away a good deal of teaching material (books, audio, DVDs) to ministries in the developing world. The ICMC was well attended (over 1000 present), and yet most participants were from North America. Few from the developing world were able to afford the trip, despite their eagerness to be fed and have their thinking stimulated. What we *were* able to do was to *send* them materials: food for thought, a source of fresh ideas. (Conference participants visiting various nations in the coming weeks received the materials in Boston; they in turn will distribute it once they reach their destinations.)

Needless to say, the recipients have been extremely grateful, especially given the difficulties of purchasing and shipping materials and clearing customs in their respective nations! One brother commented, "Now I have enough lesson material for two years!" I usually bring materials with me wherever I travel (to 20 or more nations a year). In some places, for example Muslim countries, this is the only way they are able to receive much-needed teaching materials. I remember reading as a young Christian in Oswald Sanders' classic, *Spiritual Leadership*, that a leader must cut a channel between his personal study and others if his learning is going to benefit others. I find it exciting to teach others, and especially in places where access to literature is limited, governments suppress the free exchange of ideas, or leaders desire further training as teachers, elders, preachers, and women's leaders.

While a few donations have been received to match the gifts, much is still needed. Would you like to help in any of the following nations?

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: \$610 -- \$50 received, \$560 needed

San Salvador, El Salvador: \$778 -- \$50 received, \$728 needed

Budapest, Hungary: \$120 -- DONATED IN FULL

Mumbai, India: \$150 -- \$150 received, \$0 needed

Mexico City, Mexico: \$194 -- DONATED IN FULL

Moscow, Russia: \$100 -- DONATED IN FULL

St. Petersburg, Russia: \$98 -- \$0 received

Colombo, Sri Lanka: \$320 -- \$0 received

Pretoria, South Africa: \$310 -- \$0 received

Kiev, Ukraine: \$408 -- \$186 received, \$222 needed

If anyone is in a position to help, this is a good time to donate. Please donate at the website (under "How you can help"), or just send an email. (I will update this list daily at the website until all needs have been met.) And for those who have already contributed, your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you for our partnership.

Sincerely,
Douglas Jacoby

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